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Message Text

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11
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

CIAE-00 /031 W
---------- 111854
P R 210141Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3588
INFO US MISSION GENEVA 2001
AMCONSUL UDORN

UNCLAS BANGKOK 26203

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, CB
SUBJ: BIO CAT II NEW CAMBODIAN BOAT CASE REFUGEE THONG SOPHAN
FAMILY OF 2

FOR D/HA/ORM

REF: A. BANGKOK 25895 B. BANGKOK 24811
C. BANGKOK 25204 D. BANGKOK 25579
E. KUALA LUMPUR 5310 F. BANGKOK 25777
G. STATE 178281

1. REF A IS VF. REF B REPORTS ARRIVAL OF BOAT AT SONGKHLA. REF C AND D REPORTS DEPORTATION OF BOAT FROM THAILAND. REF E STATES BOAT ARRIVED AND WAS DEPORTED FROM MALAYSIA. REF F REPORTS ARRIVAL OF BOAT IN SAMUTPRAKARN.

2. THONG SOPHAN (M)

A. BUDDHIST
B. DECEMBER 18, 1943 KRATIE, CAMBODIA
C. UNIVERSITY - 1964 - COMMERCE. AUA - ENGLISH PROFICIENCY
D. 1960-1962 CLERK IN CHARGE OF SUPPLIES FOR CAMBODIAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.
1962-1963 L.U.C.I.A. (UNION COMMERCE FOR INDUSTRIAL ASIA) HE
WORKED AS A BOOK KEEPER FOR THIS FRENCH COMPANY.
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1963-1964 WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPORTS FOR ANOTHER FRENCH

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COMPANY - DESCOURS - CABAUD.
1964-1966 ACCOUNTANT FOR THE OFFICIAL CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT'S IMPORT-EXPORT CONCERN. MAGASIN D'ETAT.
1966-1968 CHIEF OF THE WELCOME STAFF FOR CAMBODIA TRAVEL SERVICE, A PRIVATE COMPANY. PLANNED TOURS FOR TOURISTS.
1968-1970 ADVISOR FOR ANGKOR TOURIST BUREAU, A PRIVATE COMPANY.
1970-1972 INTERPRETER FOR BBC AND ABC SUPERVISOR FOR ABC WAS MR. MCHENRY.
1972-1973 WORKED AS INTERPRETER FOR VINNELL CORPORATION.
1973-1974 INTERPRETER AND TRANSLATOR FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BANGKOK.

E. CAMBODIAN (NATIVE), ENGLISH (EXCELLENT), FRENCH (EXCELLENT), THAI (GOOD), VIETNAMESE (GOOD), CHINESE (GOOD)
F. NONE
G. UNKNOWN

3. THONG SOPHAN-NARIN (SON) APRIL 15, 1967 CAMBODIA

4. THONG SOPHAN AND HIS SON WERE LOCATED IN THE EASTERN PART OF CAMBODIA WHEN IT FELL. AFTER OBSERVING THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TOWARDS U.S. GOVERNMENT BACKERS, HE FELT IT WAS NECESSARY TO FLEE. HE AND HIS SON FLED CAMBODIA FOR A SAFE HAVEN IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THERE HE MANAGED TO HIDE HIS PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT WHILE HE EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITIES OF ESCAPING FROM SOUTH VIETNAM. IN AUGUST THE NEPHEW OF A BOAT OWNER APPROACHED HIM WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE IN RETURN FOR DRIVING AND NAVIGATING THE BOAT. THONG SOPHAN, HIS SON AND THE NEPHEW REQUESTED AND RECEIVED PERMISSION FOR THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TO MOVE TO THE COUNTRYSIDE (THIS WAS NOT DIFFICULT AS THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IS ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY TO WORK IN AGRICULTURE). THEY WENT TO RACH GIA WHERE THE OTHER PEOPLE PLANNING TO ESCAPE HAD BEEN IN HIDING FOR A WEEK. THE GROUP OF 35 LEFT VIETNAM ON AUG 21 AND THEIR ODYSSEY HAS BEEN COVERED QUITE WELL IN REFTELS B, C, D, E AND F.

5. REFTEL B REPORTS BOAT AS SONGKHLA BOAT #22. IN ORDER FOR POST TO MAINTAIN AN ACCURATE RECORD FOR REFUGEES AND LOCATIONS, THIS BOAT WILL NOW BE REFERRED TO AS SAMUTPRAKARN BOAT #7.

6. REQUEST ORM AND INS/CO APPROVE ISSUANCE OF TWO EPP RECOUP "A" NUMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL G. (THIRD PRIORITY).
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BURKE

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NNN

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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TAGS: SREF, CB, (THONG SOPHAN)
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